

HOLY CROSS HOUSE

WILLIS AND COURT STREETS

The 2½ story frame pile known as the "Allender" or "Holy Cross" House sits at the intersection of Willis and Court Streets in Westminster. The building divides its attention equally between these two streets, thus having two principal facades at 90 degree angles. In space the house is basically a four bay cube but there are sufficient numbers of projections (bay windows, boxed porches, porches in-antis, etc.) to give all facades great liveliness. The north facade, which looks onto Willis Street, sits on a high coursed field-stone foundation. A flight of eight wooden steps leads to double entrance doors; the doors have heavy lattice work in their centers, and a latticed transom above. This entrance area projects from the main facade a couple of feet, and the second floor of this area is in glass (large panes below lattice work above) forming a sunroom. Modern wrought iron columns flank this extension, and are used for second story balcony. The whole is sheltered by a shed roofed asbestos tile roof with elliptical and pendent trim below.

The Holy Cross House is located on a 2/3 acre lot which slopes steeply to the southwest on Willis Street in Westminster. The lot has fine plantings of English boxwood, and some of the area's most venerable Ginko trees. Further improvements include the Holy Cross House (also known as the "Allender House") built by Miss Lucretia van Bibber c. 1890. Miss Van Bibber offered the house to the Order of the Holy Cross as a memorial to her neice (Carroll County Deed Book 75, Page 288); in 1892 the Order took up residence and performed its first Mass on August 4 of that year to commemorate the Feast of St. Dominic. Priests from as far away as Tennessee and England spent time at the house as the Order grew in importance. Eventually, the Order grew too large for the Westminster House and moved to its present location in West Park, New York, but "We never think of old Westminster days without a sense of gratitude to the good God who, among those dear people, gave us so much of blessing, and showed us the way out of many problems. May He have them all, both living and departed, in His holy keeping." An American Cloister, S. C. Hughson, O.H. C. PP. 13-22.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Holy Cross House

AND/OR COMMON

Allender House (SITE)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Willis and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

An American Cloister by S. C. Hughson, O.C.

DATE

1961

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

--

CITY, TOWN

--

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☒ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

Destroyed July, 1977

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 2½ story frame pile known as the "Allender" or "Holy Cross" House sits at the intersection of Willis and Court Streets in Westminster. The building divides its attention equally between these two streets, thus having two principal facades at 90 degree angles. In space the house is basically a four bay cube but there are sufficient numbers of projections (bay windows, boxed porches, porches in-antis, etc.) to give all facades great liveliness. The north facade, which looks onto Willis Street, sits on a high coursed field-stone foundation. A flight of eight wooden steps leads to double entrance doors; the doors have heavy lattice work in their centers, and a latticed transom above. This entrance area projects from the main facade a couple of feet, and the second floor of this area is in glass (large panes below lattice work above) forming a sunroom. Modern wrought iron columns flank this extension, and are used for second story balcony. The whole is sheltered by a shed roofed asbestos tile roof with elliptical and pendent trim below.

One gabled roof section is to the left (east) of the entrance section and contains one 1/1 window per floor, centrally placed, with lattice work in place of lentil. Green wooden louvered shutters flank these and all windows about the windows' simple enframement. The shell of this section resembles the shell of the entire building in that it consists of white painted wood in layers: on the first 15' of the ground floor is horizontally laid clapboarding, then comes a 5' section of vertical tongue-in-groove panelling, then 10' of horizontal clapboarding, then 3' of shaped shingles below a cornice which has a perforated architrave running along its base. The gable here has a simple 1/1 window in its center of this pediment, wavy boarding about it, and a repeat of the shaped shingles at the very top. The west side of this facade has windows placed and treated similarly on the first and second floors but has a two story round conical roofed tower at the corner. This tower has three windows, in the same pattern, wrapped around it on each of the two floors. A small hipped gable dormer protrudes at the corner with four small one-light casement windows in it.

The other main facade, that facing the Court House, is an interesting variation of the Willis Street facade. Instead of having its entrance area projecting, it is recessed about 3' on both floors. Here, there is a single Victorian panelled door and a narrow 1/1 window on the ground floor, and a small 1/1 window surrounded by narrow 1/1 windows above, behind a simple railed porch. The clapboarding of the main of this facade projects

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Van Bibber Family

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally the Allender-Holy Cross House is interesting in the way the four facades play off each other. Most buildings in the City have one intended-to-be-seen prospect, but the Allender House is sculptural in that it is meant to be seen from all four sides. Thus the relationship between the pedimented attic gable on the north and west facades is important as they were probably intended to be vis-a-vis the round tower at the intersection of these two facades; the tower marks the center then leading from it comes two flat sections, then come the projecting gable sections. Similarly, the east and west facades work together in their diagonally-opposite three sided bay windows. Also similar is the north and east facade treatment of doors (here protruding there recessed). All in all, the house is a fine plastic piece, and this sense of plasticity is not at all hampered by the extremely lively textures on the surface: of the interplay among horizontal, vertical and textured shingles. This surface decoration is heighten by the window treatment, by the interplay, constantly appearing, among the lintel-trellis (with its stained glass) - the fine mesh of the entrance door windows, and the large shingle sheathed gables that form.

The Holy Cross House is located on a 2/3 acre lot which slopes steeply to the southwest on Willis Street in Westminster. The lot has fine plantings of English boxwood, and some of the area's most venerable Ginko trees. Further improvements include the Holy Cross House (also known as the "Allender House") built by Miss Lucretia van Bibber c. 1890. Miss Van Bibber offered the house to the Order of the Holy Cross as a memorial to her neice (Carroll County Deed Book 75, Page 288); in 1892 the Order took up residence and performed its first Mass on August 4 of that year to commemorate the Feast of St. Dominic. Priests from as far away as Tennessee and England spent time at the house as the Order grew in importance. Eventually, the Order grew too large for the Westminster House and moved to its present location in West Park, New York, but "We never think of old Westminster days without a sense of gratitude to the good God who, among those dear people, gave us so much of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

about 1½' on the ground floor making a small railing; interesting capped columns (vaguely Corinthian) rise here "supporting" the porch. In place of the bow window there is a three sided ground story bay window with one 1/1 window on each of its fronts. These windows are similarly treated to those described. A set of French Doors leads to the simply railed porch above. To the south of this facade two 1/1 windows are located on each floor. There is a small two light pedimented roof dormer to the south of this facade in the roof.

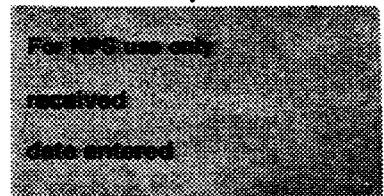
The south facade has an irregularly numbered and placed group of bays: five 1/1 windows on the second floor, and 5 on the main floor with the addition of a 6-panel door on that latter floor. The door leads to a flat-roofed simply-railed porch which rests above the three sided bay window in the fully exposed basement. One 10/10 window is in the center of this bay with matching 6/6 windows flanking it. There is a glass door in the center of the basement, and a board and batten storage area to the west. A fine trellised porch, the trellis consisting of x's and o's sheds this centrally placed door. The hipped roof on this facade is unbroken except for its shed roofed dormer, which has two 1/1 windows in it. The west facade of the building is, like most of the other fronts, divided into thirds: there is the already-discussed rounded tower, a central area with one 1/1 centrally placed window on each of the two floors, and a slightly projecting southern pediment gable section. There is a 3-sided bay window (resting on the exposed fieldstone foundation) on this facade identical to that of the west facade, complete to the French Doors on the second floor. Also, similar to the east facade is the dormer with its 1/1 window.

blessing, and showed us the way out of many problems. May He have them all, both living and departed, in His holy keeping." An American Cloister, S. C. Hughson, O.H.C. PP. 13-22.

The Ascension Church retained the title until April 15, 1919 when James H. Allender bought the place for \$4821.25 (134/154). Upon his death, his executors transferred title to the present owners on December 31, 1951, for \$26,500 (211/348).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

CARR-470

Page

Additional Information for CARR-470
Willis and Court Streets
Holy Cross/Allender House

Citations from the Democratic Advocate:

6/16/1888 The Misses Van Bibber have purchased the lot on Willis and Center Streets from Col. John K. Longwell and will build a handsome residence on it this summer.

6/23/1888 Miss Lucretia Van Bibber will erect a handsome white limestone residence on Willis Street north of the courthouse as soon as the plans and specifications are received from the architect.

8/4/1888 Miss Van Bibber commenced work on her new residence on Willis Street. It will be two story frame, 47 x 39 1/2 feet with tower and two bay windows. Ditman & Hunter carpenters, Awalt Bros., masons.

Joe Getty
7/12/85

82°/0



CAR 470

Holy Cross House

J-13

521



CAR-470



CARR-470



CARR-470



CARR 470